

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, April 23. 1706.

MY last, brought the Review of things, down to the Meeting of the last Session of Parliament; never was more Diligence us'd in *England*, to quicken up the Members on both Sides to be present at the Choice of a Speaker, and never a greater Alacrity in the Members — I cannot say, there was so much Essential weight in the thing it self, nor was it so pretended; but each Party esteeming it absolutely necessary, to the Encouragement of their Party, to show their strength in the very beginning, put forth their utmost, and us'd all possible Diligence to obtain their End in this Case.

Some that have been very Nice in their Calculations tell us, that they could give an Account of the whole House, at the Choice of this Speaker, within about 8 or

9 Voices; 457 Voices where actually in the House, to which, adding some that were Abroad, in the Service, in the Navy and Army, some that were dead since their Election, and 5 or 6 that lay Sick and could not be brought thither; there were not above 8 or 9 Members, that fail'd in their Attendance the very first day.

I could enlarge here, on the behaviour of the Parties, upon the expectation of this Success; how they laid the Roads with Expresses, to carry the first of the News into the remotest Parts; I could tell some Diverting Stories of their Management under the Disappointment; how the Clergy in many Places, caus'd the Keys of the Churches to be secur'd, that the Bells should not be rung; and on the contrary, what Rejoicings they had prepar'd, if their

Dear

Dear Mr. B had been Chosen : But I wave these things of Course, 'tis enough to remind them, that to the Universal Joy of all good Men, whose Principles however true to the Church and its Interest, were for Moderation and Christian Temper, in the Conduct of Church and State, and to the Mortification of all those, that hop'd for Confusions and Distractions in the Councils of this Parliament, Mr. *Smith* was Chosen Speaker by a great Majority.

And now we are come to the opening the first Session of the Parliament, and the expectation of all Parties were great for the Issue of things ; the Party had run the Cry of the Churches Danger up to such a height, were so full of the Noise, and hop'd to build so good a Fabrick upon this New Foundation, that it is not easie to describe the Insults of their Behaviour upon it.

As to the Occasional Bill, we were publicly told, there were Methods now taken so effectually to Incorporate it with the Money Bills, that it should not be pretended to be call'd a Tack, but should enter into the very Nature of the thing, and not the Bill be a Gross upon the Tax, but the Tax Rebuilt upon the Foundation of the Bill ; and now they flatter'd themselves they had so order'd Matters, that neither Queen, nor House of Lords, could have any room to object, or the Bill be under any possible Danger of a Miscarriage.

Upon this Foot of Management, they took the Freedom to tell us what the Title of the Bill should be ; That it should be call'd an Act, for Granting an Aid to Her Majesty, for securing of the Protestant Religion, and the Church of *England*, and for carrying on the War against *France*.

This was a Design so specious, a Colour so entirely New, and so seemingly well meant, that really they could hardly doubt their Success ; when by something they did not foresee, a Cloud they had no Notice of broke over their Heads, the Thunder of which effectually blasted all their Projects and Prospects, Abated their Pride, and Confounded their Devices.

The Queen, who was not so Ignorant of their Behaviour and Design, as some of them imagin'd, and who tho' not much disorder'd at their Influence, had been justly Alarm'd at their Freedom with her, takes Notice of these things to the Parliament.

It was but a few Months before, that the Heads of the Church, in Conjunction with the Clergy of their particular Dioceses, had in frequent Addresses, recogniz'd Her Majesty's Unparallel'd Bounty, in giving a considerable Branch of the Royal Revenue, to the Pious and most Charitable Relief of the Poor and Indigent Clergy ; it was indeed an Instance unparallel'd in our Ages, and Her Majesty's Goodness was not only Conspicuous in the Value of the Gift, and the sparing it out of the Royal Revenue ——— But there seem'd an unusual Regard to the Honour of the Church of *England* in it, and in this part they us'd the Queen most remarkably Ill ; the Gift Her Majesty gave, had not only the Charitable part to recommend it, but it had something in it, that particularly recommended Her Majesty's Sense of, and Regard to the Safety, Honour, and Reputation of the Church it self ; which in nothing bore so just Reproach, as in the neglect of the Sacred Office in many Parts of *England*, the Scandalous Poverty, and Ill Provision which was made for the Clergy in some Parts, the particulars of which I can by no means Revive in the Minds of our Reader, as what I hope will now find an effectual Remedy.

But would any Man think, that the very same Clergy, who ought to have thought themselves particularly concern'd in this Grace of the Queen's, and bound in behalf of their Brethren, that had the Benefit of it, and in behalf of the Church of *England* her self, in which as Members they shared the Honour ; I say, would any Man think, that among these should be found some, that should forget all this Goodness, fly in the Face of their Royal Benefactor, and while their more thankful Brethren were giving thanks to God and the Queen, for this Unparallel'd Bounty, should fly in the Face of this very Queen that had

thus Treated them, and that with the most Ridiculous Scandal, of *Deserting the Church?*

Would any Man think, that it could be the Answer of a Clergyman in *Wiltshire*, when a Gentleman Upbraided his Ingratitude on this very Score, and put him in Mind, what the Queen had given the Church—That he should Reply with a Slight, Plhaw—I may give a Dog a Bone, and he may bite me by the Fingers.

If this Behaviour was not astonishing to all the World, and what future Ages will hardly believe, if not Recapitulated with its Circumstances, I should not remind the Age of these things which ought to be forgotten; but the present and continued Behaviour of the Party, being built upon the Foundation of these things; I cannot come to the present Case, and give Reasons for the present Behaviour of these People, which is the Design, without setting these things in a true Light, which they begin already to gloss over with Misrepresentations, and so endeavour to throw the Odium of these Practices upon other People; these I think sufficient Reasons to justify the running over these things, which those that Confute, to be widening the Breach, show more their Malice at the Author, than their Judgment in the thing.

Let these Gentlemen Read the Queen's Speech, and remember the Effect it had upon this Party, and when I come to enter upon their new Behaviour since, I believe the necessity of these last Papers will fully appear.

The Queen, justly Alarm'd at these things, express'd a deep Resentment at them in her Speech, at the opening of the Parliament, *October 23.* of which I shall speak more largely, in the Prosecution of these Papers.

They very much mistake the Nature of Peace and the Union, which I have been so long Treating upon, and which I am well assur'd, I never did any thing to hinder, who will admit no Defence to be made, to the Perpetual Clamours, Raillery, and Abusive Charges, Exhibited daily to the World, and which the People are but too

receptive off. Would the Party desert the Clamours, would they cease to Rail at the Queen, at the Government, at the Ministry; would they stop their Furious Invektives against all Men that with the Government well, and that study the Prosperity of the Nation; I would be the last Man in *England*, that should bring to Mind, any of their former Misbehaviour; I would be the first Man in *England*, that would move the Dissenters, to forget all their former Persecutions, and leave the Blood of their Injur'd Relations Murther'd in Gaols, and Stifled in Dungeons, Unlamented; and Burying all Resentments, shake Hands with our Neighbours, though of different Opinions, yet returning to a Union of Charity.

But while these People go on, while they Rail and Spit their Envenom'd Spleen at good Men, and at all good Designs; while they Charge our Generals, that Expose their Lives for the Country, with Crimes Unprov'd, and Corresponding with our Enemies; while they trample under Foot the best Management this Nation has seen for many Years, and Calculated for the best Designs; while they Affront the Queen to Her Face, Bully the Ministry in Letters openly, and Publickly by Name, with unsufferable Insolence. They that call my beginning again with this People, a ripping up Old Sores, and contradicting my former Pretensions to Peace, leave such an Impression upon my Mind, both of their want of Honesty, as well as want of Judgment, that I cannot help telling them, I see no just Reason to lay any stress upon their Opinions, or be concerned at their Censure.

I had fairly Invited these Gentlemen to lay down these things, and to Bury the Remembrance of them in a general Charity; I LED THE WAY, and turn'd the Subject of this Paper to Trade, to try if by Example as well as Treaty they might be mov'd; I Appeal to their Behaviour since, if they are not the perpetual occasion of New Strife, or if they Abated the least of their Inflaming Spirit; to say they must still be let alone, Unanswer'd, Undetected, Unreprov'd.